

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for storing an article, ~~such as a baby bottle~~, comprising:

a tray having a bottom face that is adapted to be supported by an underlying surface such as a counter-top, and an upper face; and

a plurality of pegs extending outwardly from said upper face, each of said pegs being sized and arranged so as to be able to support an article, ~~such as a baby bottle~~, and wherein each of said pegs are permanently mounted to said tray in such a manner as to be movable between a first storage position, wherein said entire peg is positioned ~~relatively close~~ ^{adjacent} to said upper face for storage and packaging of said apparatus, and a second, operative position, wherein said peg is positioned ^{so as to extend outwardly from} ~~at a large angle with respect to~~ said upper surface, so as to enable said peg to support an article ~~such as a baby bottle~~, wherein said apparatus can conveniently be folded for packaging and storage purposes.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said pegs are mounted to said tray in such a manner that no standing water may collect at a point where a peg is mounted, thereby minimizing potential for mold and bacterial growth.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said pegs are mounted to said tray in such a manner as to be movable only about a single axis of rotation.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising means for imparting lateral stability to said pegs, further deterring any motion other than about said single axis of rotation.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said means for imparting lateral stability to said pegs comprises at least one axle joining adjacent pegs together for common, ganged movement about a common axis of rotation.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising location means for locking said axle in a rotational position that corresponds to said second operative position.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said location means comprises means, connected to said axle, for frictional engaging said upper surface of said tray.

8. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a collection reservoir defined in said tray for collecting any liquid that might run out of articles ~~such as baby bottles~~ during drying.

9. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising disk holding means, connected to said upper face of said tray, for holding baby bottle disks in a location that is isolated from areas of said tray in which liquid may collect.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said disk holding means comprises an upstanding boss member that is raised from said upper face of said tray, and a plurality of disk-receiving slots defined in said boss member.

11. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of ring support members that are constructed and arranged to support a ring portion of a baby bottle.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said ring support members include a stop member for supporting a ring member above and out of contact from said upper face of said tray.

13. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said nipple support members are mounted to said tray in such a manner as to be movable between a first storage position, wherein said entire nipple support member is positioned ^{adjacent} ~~relatively close~~ to said upper face for storage and packaging

00113366 071099

A

10

of said apparatus, and a second, operative position, wherein said nipple support member is positioned at a large angle with respect to said upper face.

14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said nipple support members are mounted to said tray in such a manner as to be movable only about a single axis of rotation.

15. An apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising means for imparting lateral stability to said nipple support members, further deterring any motion other than about said single axis of rotation.

16. An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said means for imparting lateral stability to said nipple support members comprises at least one axle joining adjacent nipple support members together for common, ganged movement about a common axis of rotation.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising location means for locking said axle in a rotational position that corresponds to said second operative position.

18. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a cutout area on a side of said apparatus for facilitating lifting of said apparatus by a user.

19. An apparatus for drying and storing an article, ~~such as a baby bottle~~, comprising:
 a tray having a bottom face that is adapted to be supported by an underlying surface such as a counter-top, and an upper face;
 bottle support means for supporting a baby bottle; and
 disk holding means, connected to said upper face of said tray, for holding baby bottle disks in a location that is isolated from areas of said tray in which liquid may collect, whereby

001355:021009

A

||

baby bottle disks are and stored in a safe manner at a location that is convenient to a location at which baby bottles are being dried.

20. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said disk holding means comprises an upstanding boss member that is raised from said upper face of said tray, and a plurality of disk-receiving slots defined in said boss member.

001366-0108